

THEATRE BURNED, FEDERATION.

McVicker's Handsome Play House Official Statement of the Supreme Council at Terre Haute.

Several Firemen Injured by a Powderly Approved and Third Falling Wall.

Panic Among Hotel Guests—The Loss Estimated at \$200,000.

CHICAGO, Aug. 26.—Shortly before 3 o'clock this morning a watchman discovered smoke issuing from the window of a little smoking-room under the stage of McVicker's Theatre on Madison street. An alarm was quickly sent out, but despite the heroic efforts of the firemen the theatre was burned to the ground.

The smoking-room was filled with dry, inflammable material, which proved excellent food for the flames, and before the firemen arrived the whole interior of the building was ablaze, so rapid was the progress of the flames. In less than thirty minutes the flames were issuing through the roof.

Additional help was summoned and the firemen, seeing that the theatre itself was doomed, turned their attention to saving the front part of the building, which is occupied as offices.

A small alley separates the theatre from the Windsor Hotel, and such was the fury of the flames that it looked at one time as if the hotel would catch also.

A slight panic ensued among the guests who, awakened by the noise, thought the hotel was on fire and rushed madly to the street.

Guests of the Saratoga Hotel and Benneville House were badly frightened also, but the flames did not reach either of these hotels.

Insurance Patrol No. 1 sent a number of their men to the theatre at the first alarm. Seven of them were at work in the auditorium when the roof fell with a crash.

There were grave fears that they had been buried in the blazing timbers, but they soon emerged from the building, scorched and blackened, but alive almost by a miracle.

Around in the rear of the building the firemen attached to Engine 7 were hard at work when the wall fell.

All were more or less injured, but so far as is known only one seriously.

He was Patrick Duffy, whose skull was fractured by the mass of bricks. He will probably die.

The loss to Horace McVicker, proprietor of the theatre is estimated at \$100,000, and tenets of the offices in the front will lose a similar amount.

The New York "Shenandoah" Company, who had been playing there for the past fourteen weeks, lost all their wardrobe and the complete scenery, which includes the mammoth scene in the Shenandoah Valley, together with numerous new drops and interior scenes, and all the wardrobe and costumes belonging to the company itself and for the extra people has been lost.

Last night was the company's ninety-ninth performance of "Shenandoah," in that theatre, and to-night they were to celebrate the one hundredth performance, for which the entire house was sold in advance.

Manager J. H. McVicker, who is also proprietor of the theatre, is at Saratoga, N. Y.

McVicker's Theatre is the largest in Chicago, and one of the oldest in the country. Three years ago thousands of dollars were spent on its interior, making it the handsomest theatre in the West.

The loss of this theatre will be a serious one for such attractions as Sarah Bernhardt, Jefferson and Florence, who were already booked there.

"The Private Secretary," which is now playing at the Grand Opera-House, was to go there direct from New York and follow "Shenandoah."

Manager Charles Frohman says that through the fact that "Shenandoah" was played last season by two companies, the complete duplicate—in fact the original scenery painted by Phil Gosticher, is in New York, and also another complete set of wardrobe is in New York and will be sent on immediately to the "Shenandoah" special car, which is at the Erie Depot, and which was to convey the special "Shenandoah" company to the East next week—the play will go on at once at the large Auditorium in Chicago.

The origin of the fire is a mystery, but there is said to be traces of incendiaryism. The theatre will be rebuilt as soon as possible.

PHILADELPHIA IN A SEAWAY.

Another Test to Be Applied to the Feet Steel Cruiser.

By order of Secretary Tracy the new steel cruiser Philadelphia is to be subjected to an exhaustive trial trip at sea. She is ordered to be ready by Saturday of next week, and will make a cruise of from five to ten days upon the open ocean.

Criticism has been made by naval authorities of the vessel's tendency to pitch in a heavy sea, and it is said that she has a tendency to list to starboard, which makes her unstable. Naval Constructor Marin says that she is steady to a certain point, but beyond that she is liable to roll.

She will steam on this new trial under direction of the navy department, and the people of hundreds miles away when she will be tested in every possible way, and her guns will be fired to test the effect of the recoil.

SOME WILL NOT RISE AGAIN.

The record of accidents, fatal and dangerous, due to the force of gravity, which appeared on the police blotter this morning was phenomenal.

Owen McCall, forty years old, of 408 East Seventy-first street, fell from the fifth story window to the sidewalk at midnight last night.

Herbert Kelly, twenty-eight years old, of 144 Henry street, fractured his skull by falling from a house at night, and was taken to Gloucester hospital, where he will probably die.

James Clark, twenty-three years old, of 365 Sixth avenue, fell from first avenue and died.

A man about thirty-five years old was found lying unconscious on the sidewalk at Broadway at 12 o'clock this morning. He was taken to Gloucester hospital, where it is supposed that his injuries were fatal.

Several women with pale, swollen faces and listless, weary eyes were seen on the streets.

TOLD OF UMBRELLAS.

Romance and Reality Related by Wideawake People.

Facts and Fancies In Which the Parachute Figures.

Those entering this contest must comply with the following regulations: Letters must not be more than 200 words long. They must be written on one side of the paper only.

The writer's name and address must accompany each letter, not for publication, but for identification.

Letters must be addressed to Umbrella Editor, P. O. Box 2,354.

A gold dollar bill will be given for the best story.

Reunited Twin Brothers.

During a rush at the counter at Green's Hotel in Philadelphia I somehow got the wrong check for my umbrella.

Upon leaving in the morning and presenting my check a brown umbrella was handed me, which I informed the clerk was not mine.

I went to go behind the counter and look for mine, but I did not find it.

I then asked him why he denied it, and he told me that he had given it to a gentleman who had presented the check for it.

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DRAMATIC SEASONS OPEN.

Success of the New Play at Miner's Fifth Avenue House.

Strauss's One Hundredth Night—The New Park in Brooklyn.

WEDNESDAY THEATRE.

"The Blue and the Gray" described as "a story of love and war," a play that was presented in this city before several of the recent war plays, was the attraction at the Windsor Theatre last night.

The play is sensational and it was extremely well presented, the battle scene being particularly received by the audience.

In the cast were Milt D. Barrow, who was received with a great deal of warmth; W. J. Thompson, Miss Lisle Leigh, Miss Lottie Williams and Miss Nellie Martell.

The cast on the whole is a very satisfactory one.

WEDNESDAY SQUARE GARDEN.

Strauss gave his one hundredth concert in America at the Madison Square Garden last night, and a very enjoyable event it was.

The programme included an "America" overture by Edward Strauss, called "Life in America," dedicated to the American people, and "America's Fair Women," a waltz played for the first time.

There was a "Mikado" pot-pourri; a "Phonograph" song; a gavotte by Rudolph Aronson, called "Martha Washington," and a song by a Russian and German society of New York.

"Patriotic War," and "Chant of the National Flower," the two ballads were given, and a tableau called "The Birth of the Waltz" was made known.

It was conducted by Jessie Williams, and proved to be very pretty and agreeable.

It was to the music of Johann Strauss.

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SPORTS IN FIELD AND AFOAT.

The A. A. U. Annual Swimming Championship at Nyack.

Carter's Resignation as National Cross Country Handicapper.

The annual swimming championships of the A. A. U. will be given at the Manhattan Athletic Club, will be held Thursday and Friday, Sept. 1 and 2, at Nyack, next from the Nyack Rowing Association boat-house, on the Hudson river.

The events will be one hundred yards and one mile. Entrance fee is two dollars.

The previous announcements that the championships were to be held from the Nautique Boat Club House, at Bay Ridge, and the Pierpont Boat Club House, at Pierpont-on-the-Hudson, are superseded by this final announcement of the final choice of the spot at which the championships will be held.

The Nyack Rowing Association will afford every facility for conducting the championships. The press will be furnished with a steam launch, and the officers with launches and boats in which to manage the championships. The Nyack Rowing Association will start at 4:30 p. m.

James F. Maguire, President of the Xavier Boat Club, says that the new boat-house of the club at One Hundred and Fifty-third street, New York, will be positively begun, ready for occupancy, by Sept. 15, all rumors about the postponement of the opening until Spring to the contrary.

He declares that the officers will hold to the original purpose and open the boat-house on time. The new boat-house of the club is increasing daily, and it promises to become one of the prominent clubs of the Hudson.

The Kings County and Berkeley Athletic Club cricket teams will play several matches during the season. The Berkeley team consists of an excellent eleven.

The Harlem regatta, to be held this Fall, will bring out the full strength of all the Harlem regatta clubs. It is a sort of family affair, in which each organization endeavors to do its best.

Capt. Pilkington says that the senior eight of the Harlem regatta will be above the usual standard in point of excellence. It will be a credit to the club.

The entry list has been sent in to the Harlem regatta. The list is long, containing the names of several hundred intending participants. Athletes of all varieties are represented.

The Manhattan Athletic Club increase team has been selected to meet the Staten Island team in a contest on the Hudson river. The team who have been selected are not yet named.

The contest between the Manhattan and Staten Island teams will be a very interesting one. It is a sort of family affair, in which each organization endeavors to do its best.

The New York Athletic Club will hold its sixth annual open regatta on Labor Day over their regular course, from Oak Point to the Battery. The regatta will be a very interesting one.

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LOADING UP CLERICAL GUNS.

Turning the Churches Into Anti-Tammany Voting Clubs.

Organizer Oliver Sumner Teal does not mean that the clerical end of the People's Municipal Reform League shall be merely ornamental.

Like the thirty pretty girls who operate typewriters and address letters at the Victoria Hotel Annex headquarters, he proposes that the clerical end shall do some-thing more than lend their personal attractiveness and the influence thereof to the forwarding of the movement.

The energetic Chairman of the League's Committee on Enfranchisement has provided plenty of lowly and practical work for the men of the cloth, and he has issued a circular telling of his success in getting the clerics to accept the responsibility.

He has succeeded in arranging for a mass-meeting of all the clergymen of the city, of whatever creed or denomination, when, Mr. Teal says, the biggest gun of this remarkable municipal campaign will be fired, with a detonation which will shake Tammany Hall to its foundations.

Rev. Dr. Howard Crosby is engaged in loading the gun with an address "designed to express the conviction that the gross abuses of the city government imperatively need reform, and it is the duty of every church, whatever may be their creed or shade of belief, to unite in the work of reformation."

This is the enthusiastic Mr. Teal's high explanation of the object of the meeting and the purpose of the proposed campaign. While Mr. Teal calls of this meeting as the big gun of the campaign, he also refers to the small arms to be used in this work of reformation, which practice will be a more effective than the big piece of ordnance.

The churches are to be regarded, for the purposes of the campaign, as many political clubs," remarks the untiring organizer.

Municipal Reform Clubs have already been organized in several of the congregations, and they are expected to co-operate with the regular Committee on Enfranchisement.

"The work of the clergymen is to be of the most practical kind."

"The young men are to be interested in politics, and will be interested in the League's campaign literature."

We hope in this way to stir to political action the thousands of young men who have heretofore had little or no interest in the choice of the city's servants."

Mr. Teal is sanguine of the co-operation of the entire clergy, but it appears that one very eminent divine will not participate in the work of the League.

Archbishop Corrigan, who has appeared at the head of the Committee of Clergymen of all of the documents sent out by the League, has refused to sign the Archibishop's name has been used no longer in connection with the League's management.

He says: "I have faith in the Archibishop, and as his representative I demand that his name be taken from the list of the Committee of Clergymen. This I do with all politeness, and with regret, while, as before, I make no comment upon the purposes of the League or the purity of its intentions."

NO TRACE OF THE ABDUCTOR.

Frank's Accomplices Still in Jail Unable to Get Bail.

James Tracy, of 111 Madison street, in city, and Archibald Craig, of 1170 Madison street, Brooklyn, who were arrested in Long Island City charged with being accomplices of Gustave Frank, of 71 N. Mark's place, in attempting to steal his ten-year-old son, are still confined in the Queens County Court-House, having been unable to get bail.

Both men were remanded yesterday by Judge Kavanagh in \$300 bonds each for examination Friday.

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